

Pohick Church
Near Pohick
Fairfax County
Virginia

HABS No. VA-190

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORIC AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District of Virginia

Historic American Buildings Survey

Prepared at Washington Office
for Southeast Unit

Pohick Church (Protestant Episcopal)
Pohick Vicinity
Fairfax County, Virginia

HABS No. Va-190

Pohick Church

The following document was prepared in 1924 by the late Glenn Brown, restoration architect, who headed it "Recollections of the Restoration of Pohick Church." This five page pencil holograph is preserved in the Manuscript Division of the Library of Congress and the contributor is indebted to the late Allen L. Reese for a painstaking transcription made in 1947. Mr. Reese wrote that the notations appear to be rough jottings with no indication of the purpose for which they were made.

"About thirty years ago Mr. H. H. Dodge (superintendent at Mount Vernon) came to see me about restoring Pohick Church - I went to Mt. Vernon and he and I made a careful search through the old vestry books making extracts from it of all data relating to the building of the church - From this data I was able to make a plan of the interior and locate the ~~assignment-or~~ sale of pews to individuals and the assignment of sections to classes of the ~~communi~~ membership -

"Dodge and I made a trip from Mt Vernon by buggy we found the interior had been gutted - even to the window panes and sash ~~while~~ ~~The-grounds--There-were-a-few~~ The floor had been relaid of poor quality pine and small number of plain rough wooden benches with a rough chancel rail and desk were constituted the interior - We called upon the rector and his wife - Mr Dr. and Mrs. Wallace - who were pleased at the idea of having the church restored -

"I made plans for the interior basing the details on old Georgian churches of the period ~~Ch~~ like Christ Church Alexandria Kings Chapel Boston, and the Newport Church -

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" Mr. Dodge - through the regents of Mount Vernon, ~~took~~
~~active steps to raise money~~ and patriotic societies took active
steps to raise the money for the purpose -

"It was determined not to wait until money enough ~~to~~ was
secured to finish the work at one time, but to start the restora-
tion immediately - and do the work it piecemeal, as far as contri-
butions allowed -

"Before the work ~~setu~~-on the building commenced, Mr. Mead
became rector - and heartily agreed that the church should ~~hav~~ be
really a restoration even if according to modern ideas. Comfort
~~was~~ in some instances was ignored -

"The first contribution of importance was from the Daughters
(or Colonial Dames)? ~~in-the~~ For the pulpit - and enclosure - Then
contributions were received from descendants of original pew holders
~~some-five-or-more~~ allowing for six box pews - The chancel rail was
one of the next steps, ~~few~~ followed by the sounding board above the
pulpit, contributions for which were secured largely by Mr. Dodge.
From time to time, as money was secured additional pews were put in
place. Then came one of the most important contributions for a rear
reredos - to complete the chancel - In this way with lapses of years
the restoration progressed, with the active support of the Rector
Mr. Mead and Vestryman Corbin Thompson - ~~Miss-Am~~ To Miss Amy Townsend,
~~who became interested in its~~ Mt. Vernon regent from N. Y. became
interested in the work and determined to raise the money for its com-
pletion. She secured ~~money~~ contributions for completing the pews &

doors wainscoting painting - window & frames sash and glazing,
wall and gate way - and treatment of the grounds -

"During this period of thirty years - every detail of has
had constant care - and supervision looking only to make it as much
like the old church as possible -"

Prepared by: Worth Bailey, HABS Historian, January 7, 1969

Approved by Robert E. Smith Date 2-16-60
Acting Chief Architect

ADDENDUM TO:
POHICK CHURCH
9301 Richmond Highway
Lorton vicinity
Fairfax County
Virginia

HABS VA-190
VA,30-POHI,1-

FIELD RECORDS

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
PHILADELPHIA SUPPORT OFFICE
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
U.S. Custom House, 3rd Floor
200 Chestnut Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106